

THE FRENCH ISLANDS

St. Pierre and Miquelon Would Like to Join United States.

Important Fishing Settlements on the Coast of Newfoundland Which Are a Thorn in the Flesh to England.

Only 11 miles from the southern coast of Newfoundland there lie two islands—St. Pierre and Miquelon—which belong to the French, but which might have been in the possession of the British government but for the short-sightedness of her statesmen of a century ago. Attention is directed to these two little islands at this time by the growing sentiment there in favor of annexation to the United States. The islands have just elected a member to the French chamber of deputies, and it is understood that he is in hearty sympathy with the popular feeling.

Four times St. Pierre and Miquelon have been in the possession of England. In 1713 they were ceded to her with Newfoundland, but on the English conquest of Canada they were assigned to France as a fishery depot and as a sort of sop to soothe her wounded feelings at the great losses in Canada. The islands were taken again by the English during the

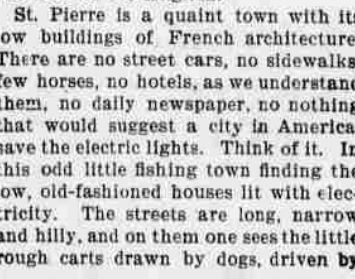


THE WHARF AT ST. PIERRE.

troubles of 1778, but again restored to France in 1783. In 1793 England swept the islands clean of the French, but for a third time, in 1802, France was given possession of them. The following year they again fell into the hands of England, but since 1816 they have been in the undisputed possession of the French.

Miquelon has an area of 45,542 acres, but is of little importance. The island of St. Pierre has an area of 6,420 acres, and at its southern extremity is the city of St. Pierre. This is the only important city on the islands and has a population of over 5,000. During the cod-fishing season this is increased by fully 10,000 fishermen, which come over from France. According to the terms of the treaty of Utrecht the French were not to fortify them in any way, but it is claimed that this agreement has been violated to some extent. Certain it is that France sends over each year thousands of boys which are being trained for her navy. They are called beach boys and help the old men repairing tackle and netting the capelin, a small fish good for bait, while the fishermen are away at the Banks. These beach boys are an interesting feature of St. Pierre. They are of an average age of 18, and are sent out from France under contract to act as helpers to the fishermen. The government pays them \$30 for the season and furnishes transportation, food, clothing and shelter. In return they are required, after two or three years of apprenticeship, to enter the French navy. This makes of the islands a sort of training ground for the French navy right under the nose of the English.

St. Pierre is a quaint town with its low buildings of French architecture. There are no street cars, no sidewalks, few horses, no hotels, as we understand them, no daily newspaper, no nothing that would suggest a city in America, save the electric lights. Think of it. In this old little fishing town finding the low, old-fashioned houses lit with electricity. The streets are long, narrow and hilly, and on them one sees the little rough carts drawn by dogs, driven by



A STREET SCENE IN ST. PIERRE.

native in Basque caps, blouses and sabots. There are also heavy ox teams with picturesque villagers prodding them as they move slowly forward. About April every year the French fleet of fishing vessels arrives at St. Pierre and then the busy season of the city begins. In September the boats again assemble in the port preparatory to the return to France. The possession of these two islands is a source of continual irritation of the British and complicates the fishing controversy which grows more bitter each year. In addition to these two islands as a base of supplies, the French hold, by right of treaty, the privilege to land at any point on the Newfoundland coast between Cape Bonavista and Cape Riché for the purpose of drying their fish.

The suggestion of the annexation of the islands to the United States is exceedingly interesting, but it is very doubtful whether the latter country would entertain such a proposition. However, Uncle Sam might start with the French islands in the northern sweep of annexation and later take in Newfoundland and Canada herself. Who can say? Stranger things than that have happened.

Wisdom of Experience. "What is the best thing one can take for a cold?" asked the Mt. Auburn man. "Don't know," answered the Norwood philosopher. "But probably the worst thing a man can take is the advice of his friends."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The Helping Hand. "And what did Miss Specie do when she heard the count's tale of woe?" "She gave him a helping hand."—Town Topics.

His Sense of Humor. "Biffon thinks that he has a very alert sense of humor." "He must have," said the acridulous person. "to perceive any wit in some of the stories he tells."—Washington Star.

SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

"The three chief requisites of a successful starter are quickness to see, quickness to think and quickness to act," says Jake Holtman, recognized among race followers from coast to coast as the greatest starter of thoroughbreds in America. "I doubt if there is any other position in which a man is required to combine these three qualities so surely as in starting a field of race-horses."



Jake Holtman

He must not only see all that is going on among the horses and jockeys in front of him, but he must reason from what he sees as to what will cause a moment later should he snap the barrier. Then he must act instantly when, according to his vision and his estimate of the situation, the right time has come to let them go; otherwise the conditions making it the favorable moment will have been a favorable opportunity. Once in awhile a starter will guess wrong as to what a certain horse is about to do. He will have the other horses' actions sized up all right, but one horse will wheel or do something that cannot be anticipated. Experience is one of the great factors of successful starting. A man learns what is likely to happen again by what he has seen take place. Then many horses have peculiarities which a starter learns, which is why the starting is often poorer the first few days of a meeting than it is later on. The jockeys, however, are the main factors in flag-wielding. If a starter can obtain obedience from the boys the rest of his work is made easy by comparison. Patience also enters largely into the question, as a starter without that quality soon loses the respect of the boys riding at a meeting, and unless they respect him, he will not get good results. There must be also firmness in seeing that his orders are carried out, but firmness should not be mistaken for tyranny. Much depends also on the starter's assistants, a most important adjunct of success. With a good assistant to help him, a starter can be made; on the other hand, with a bad one, he is liable to be unmade. The starter should show no favors; all horses should look alike to him, whether a horse is of stake quality or a common skate, whether he belongs to a millionaire or a poor owner, whether he is an odds-on favorite or the longest shot in the race, whether he belongs to a friend or a stranger. He should only appear as a mere racing machine, and be given only equal chances with the others.

When asked to tell of the attributes that go to make up the star ball players, Ned Hanlon, one of the best judges of players in the country to-day, said recently: "Actual, natural, physical ability to play ball is one thing, and confidence in one's own powers is another, and is just as important. The player with the swelled head may not be the best fellow in the world to know personally, but if he has the physical qualifications he will be a great ball player, while some good-souled but diffident chap, who is just as strong and speedy, is going back till \$75 a month just fits his pay. The player who firmly believes in his own heart that he can hit that ball, and who regards any catch made off his bat as an accident and an astounding occurrence, is going to wait somewhat around 300 all the time, while the half-apologetic player, who feels that there are lots of better batters on the team, is going to depart to the minor league with a percentage of 142. Some men are stars in the minors, and no good at all in the bigger organizations. In most cases these men fail because they feel embarrassed and awe-struck in the presence of the mighty veterans around them. Other men actually hit harder in the fast company than among the lesser lights. These men are invariably so self-confident that a National league pitcher, to them, seems only a mark set up for them to win renown by."

Six new swimming records have been made during the past year by Charles Rubert, of New York, most of which were secured by lowering the records of E. C. Schaeffer, the former University of Pennsylvania star, and the world's champion. He holds the present records for 150, 200, 1,100, 1,350, 1,540 yards and one mile. David Gaul, of Philadelphia, made the most remarkable showing next to Rubert, having won nearly every contest in which he was a competitor. His 50 yards in 31 seconds is his chief performance. David Billington led the record breakers in England, and Harry LeMayne, of Harvard performed some sensational "stunts."

Tom Jenkins, of Cleveland, and Dan McLeod, of Hamilton, have signed articles to meet in private in the presence of not more than 100 spectators to settle finally which of them is the better wrestler. The contest will not take place before March 1 and no location has yet been selected.

Elmer E. Shaner, manager and secretary of the Indiana Interstate association, has closed arrangements for the Great American handicap shoot, which will be held at Indianapolis the week of June 30. Clay birds will be used entirely.

Edward Callier, of Moline, Ill., walked 40 rods 35 minutes to beat the record for continuous walking.

Looked Like It. The army officer looked with displeasure at the soiled sheet of paper that had been handed him. "That's a measly looking document," he exclaimed. "Yes, sir," said the subordinate, touching his hat. "It's the sick list."—Chicago Tribune.

His Sense of Humor. "Biffon thinks that he has a very alert sense of humor." "He must have," said the acridulous person. "to perceive any wit in some of the stories he tells."—Washington Star.

FACTS ABOUT GAPES.

A Few Rules the Adoption of Which Will Prevent the Appearance of the Disease.

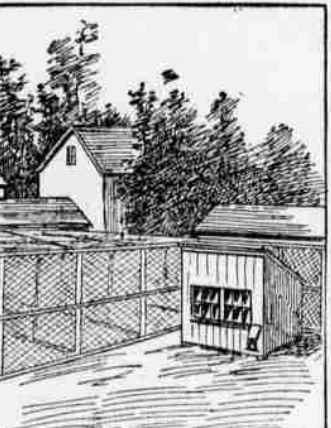
To prevent gapes is better than any attempts to give relief after the chicks are affected, and although it is now somewhat late in the season to consider gapes, yet a few rules to observe which will keep the chicks safe from the disease are of great importance. Scatter air-kept lime freely over the ground occupied by the chicks. Put a little of the lime in the drinking water. Should signs of the gapes appear, feed the chicks twice a week with stiff corn-meal dough, first intimately mixing a teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine with a quart of the meal. Give a very sick chick a drop of turpentine on a bread-crumble. If this fails, then strip a small feather, leaving a small tuft on the end, insert the end of the feather in the windpipe, give it a twist and then quickly withdraw it. Feed on clean boards. Never allow residuum food to remain on the ground. Keep the ground free from filth. The rich, moist places, such as are favorable to earthworms, are favorable to gapes. Do not mistake lice for gapes, as the large gray size on the skin of the heads and necks will often cause the chicks to gasp from weakness.

It is not an easy matter to insert a feather down the throats of a large number of chicks; hence, the best wholesale method is to give turpentine in cornmeal, and to use plenty of lime on the ground, as lime will purify the soil and render it unfit for gapeworms. —Farm and Fireside.

COMFORT FOR PIGEONS.

Wire Cage or "Fly" Attached to Various Sections of House Affords Healthy Exercise.

Pigeons must be given exercise in the open air and sunlight. For this purpose a wire cage or "fly" is built. We show such a fly in our illustration. On this subject a government bulletin says: The ground should be leveled. In the



PIGEON HOUSE AND FLY.

case of the fly in the illustration the distance from the outside wire to the house is 32 feet. The frame of the fly is made of hemlock posts 2x3 inches in size and 8 feet high above the ground. These posts should be set in three rows parallel with the side of the building; six posts in each row. The outer row supports the end of the fly 32 feet from the building. Hemlock boards 4 inches wide are nailed to the top and bottom around the sides and an additional 4-inch board is nailed between at such a height that a netting four feet wide will reach from it to the strips above and below. This gives a wire wall 8 feet high. The fly is divided into sections corresponding to the sections in the house.

POULTRY YARD NOTES.

The brooder and its proper management is more than half of artificial rearing. Have regular hours for feeding, and you will always find the fowls ready at the appointed time.

If you want eggs to hatch and to sell from March to June, do not push your hens now; feed a maintenance ration and let them rest for some weeks.

The droppings of poultry fed on grain and meat at this season are too valuable to be wasted. Carefully store in barrels, mixing with dry earth and plaster, and keep for the truck patch.

Make a trip through your henery with a lantern after the fowls have gone to roost. Fowls with throat affections can then be easily discovered and should be removed to the hospital for treatment.

If you want to know what roup is, just open a door or a window over the heads of the fowls and let the cold air or wind pour down on them for a night or two. In cold weather ventilation should be from the floor outward, or up through an air shaft. —Farm Journal.

Tests of Feeding Stuff. The results of the state feeding stuff inspection are announced in Bulletin No. 240 of the New York experimental station at Geneva. More than 500 samples of feeds have been collected and analyzed by the station, covering 350 brands. Of these brands 151 were licensed in the state, the others being exempt from license or sold without compliance with the law. Very little adulteration was found in the standard feeds coming under the law, like cottonseed and linseed meal, gluten products and brewers' and distillers' residues; but many proprietary and mixed feeds were found to contain corn cobs, oat hulls or similar waste than valueless ingredients. Purchasers are especially cautioned to beware of feeding stuffs running very high in fiber, and a list is given of several brands which are faulty in this respect.

Discarding Poor Farm Animals. One of the hardest things for a young breeder to do is to discard animals that are not up to the standard for breeding purposes. There are always buyers for pure bred animals at a fair price, it matters not if the animal is inferior, it will often command enough to tempt the breeder to part with it. Here is where a great many breeders tear down their reputation while they are trying to build it up. Inferior breeding stock sold to somebody has lived to vex many a man who thought he was getting rid of his culls to advantage. It requires courage to send pure bred animals to slaughter, but it pays when they are not the kind to keep. The safe and eventually the profitable plan is to sell good animals and keep better ones and breed best ones.—Thomas McFarlane, in Farmers' Review.

A Curious Custom.

A curious custom prevails in certain parts of India which may be called a symbolic marriage. In families where there are several daughters, the younger sisters may marry only after the elder sisters are married. That, of course, is not always the case, but the obstacle can easily be surmounted if the elder sister declares herself ready to marry some tree or flower or some other lifeless object. In this way the disagreeable consequences of disregarding the time-honored customs may be avoided, and the younger sister can safely be wedded to her living choice. The elder sister, however, must take care not to wed a poplar tree, an elm tree or a pine; if she chooses a plum, apple or apricot tree she may get a divorce—that is, she must get off as soon as a real man will ask for her hand—while if she marries one of the first three named trees she cannot easily shake her marital bonds, for these trees are sacred and must not be trifled with. —Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Appealed to Him Partially. The vague man stood on the side of the Atlantic steamer and gazed admiringly at the rich sunset. The boat was tossing heavily on the bosom of the deep, as is the habit of boats when the sea is rough, and he thought that such a course may be. As the sun finally sank below the horizon the vague man murmured: "Sic transit gloria mundi!"

Strictly classical, of course, but even vague men are sometimes educated. The Irishman in the steerage overheard the remark and groaned loudly. It was his first voyage. "I don't know nothing at all at all of the glory of Monday," he growled, "but there's no doubt of the sick transit!" The sailor's cry of "Heave ho!" at this juncture did not conduce to his relief.—N. Y. Journal.

The Photograph for the Deaf. An apparatus which may enable the record of a photograph to be understood independently of the sense of hearing has been contrived by Prof. McKendrick in England. By this apparatus the revolving photographic cylinder is caused to produce variations of intensity in a weak electric current, and these variations, when conducted through the hands, which have been moistened for the purpose, are easily perceived. Since they correspond with the sound variations, it is thought that by their aid, a person totally deaf could appreciate the rhythm and character of a succession of sounds thus transformed into a series of sensations of a different kind.—Youth's Companion.

Effects of Bad Ventilation. A curious defect has been discovered in Buda-Pesth's underground railway. There are not enough ventilating apertures in the tunnel, and the trains rushing through it compress the air in it like that in the tube of a Zalkinski pneumatic gun. On some occasions cars have been lifted from the track and the passengers have been almost suffocated. One stretch of tunnel two miles long has only a single ventilating aperture, making it almost an airtight compartment. Any constraining engineer ought to have known what would be the result of such pneumatic conditions.—N. Y. Sun.

Queer Astronomical Facts. The speculative astronomers have given us some queer calculations and odd comparisons. One of the most curious of these is one in which the relative size of the sun and some of the planets is shown. They tell us that if the sun could be represented by a globe two feet in diameter the earth would be represented, proportionately, by a pea. Mars by a pinhead and Mercury by a mustard seed.—Chicago Chronicle.

Most of It Inside. She asked him to bring home two quarts of champagne for a little dinner she intended to give the following night. He had been obedient to the extent of bringing home an extra quart, and still there was trouble. "I wanted it brought in bottles," she said, with infinite scorn, as he put down one little pint bottle. "You have too much inside and too little out."—Chicago Post.

They Did. "I think," said the center rush, as he looked up from the stretcher upon which his mangled limbs were extended, "I think—"

They bent with pitying glances to catch his last words: "I think that in that last scrimmage they got on to me." —N. Y. Journal.

THE MARKETS. New York, Jan. 15. CATTLE—Native Steers... \$3.75 @ \$5.30. COTTON—Winter Wheat... 2.25 @ 2.35. FLOUR—Winter Wheat... 5.00 @ 5.10. WHEAT—No. 2 Red... 56.00 @ 57.00. CORN—No. 2... 35.00 @ 36.00. OATS—No. 2... 22.00 @ 23.00. PORK—Mess (new)... 14.25 @ 15.00. LARD—Vegetable... 7.25 @ 7.50. ST. LOUIS. COTTON—Middling... 13.00 @ 13.25. BEEVES—Steers... 2.25 @ 2.50. CALVES—(per 100 lbs.)... 5.00 @ 5.10. HOGS—Fair to Choice... 4.25 @ 4.50. SHEEP—Fair to Choice... 3.25 @ 3.50. FLOUR—Patents... 4.25 @ 4.50. WHEAT—No. 2... 52.00 @ 53.00. OATS—No. 2... 22.00 @ 23.00. RYE—No. 2... 42.00 @ 43.00. WHEAT—No. 2... 52.00 @ 53.00. HAY—Clear Timothy... 9.50 @ 10.00. BACON—Clear Ribs... 14.00 @ 15.00. EGGS—Fresh... 23.00 @ 24.00. LARD—Vegetable... 7.25 @ 7.50. CHICAGO. CATTLE—Native Steers... 4.75 @ 5.15. HOGS—Fair to Choice... 4.00 @ 4.50. SHEEP—Fair to Choice... 3.25 @ 3.50. FLOUR—Patents... 4.25 @ 4.50. WHEAT—No. 2... 52.00 @ 53.00. OATS—No. 2... 22.00 @ 23.00. RYE—No. 2... 42.00 @ 43.00. 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